

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A right-information distribution method comprising the steps of:

generating right information and verification information for authenticating the validity of a portable electronic device when the right information is stored in said portable electronic device;

generating a right code by encrypting the right information and the verification information, wherein said right code is provided to a user offline;

~~enabling the user to input the offline provided right code into said portable electronic device;~~

inputting the right code into said portable electronic device independently of a connection status of said portable electronic device, the generated right code being represented in at least one of an audible and visible form to input the right code into said portable electronic device by a user;

decrypting the right code inputted into the portable electronic device and using the verification information to authenticate the right information based on the decrypted right code; and

storing the authenticated right information in said portable electronic device.

Claim 2 (original): A right-information distribution method according to Claim 1, wherein the right information includes information which permits admission to a predetermined place.

Claim 3 (original): A right-information distribution method according to Claim 1, wherein said portable electronic device is an integrated circuit card.

Claim 4 (original): A right-information distribution method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of inputting the offline-provided right code to said portable electronic device is performed by an information management apparatus.

Claim 5 (original): A right-information distribution method according to Claim 4, wherein the storing of the right information is performed when said portable electronic device and said information management apparatus are combined with each other.

Claim 6 (original): A right-information distribution method according to Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

inputting a first right code added to the right information, and an identification number for returning the right information to a source of the right information; and

after confirming the input first right code and the input identification number, confirming an offline-providable second right code for returning the right information to said source of the right information, and invalidating said first right code.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A right-information distribution method for transferring right information from a first portable electronic device to a second portable electronic device, said right-information distribution method comprising the steps of:

generating the right information and verification information for authenticating the validity of said first portable electronic device when the right information is stored in said first portable electronic device;

generating a first right code by encrypting the right information and the verification information, wherein said right code is provided to a user offline;

~~enabling the user to input the offline provided first right code and the identification number of said second portable electronic device into said first portable electronic device;~~

enabling the user to input the first right code and identification number of said second portable electronic device into said first portable electronic device independently of a first connection status of said first portable electronic device, the generated right code being represented in at least one of an audible and visible form to input the right code into said first portable electronic device by a user;

confirming the input first right code and the input identification number;

invalidating the first right code and generating a second right code, wherein said second right code is provided to the user offline;

~~enabling the user to input the second right code into said second portable electronic device;~~

enabling the user to input the second right code into said second portable electronic device independently of a second connection status of said second portable electronic device, the generated right code being represented in at least one of an audible and visible form to input the right code into said second portable electronic device by a user;

decoding the offline-provided second right code inputted into the portable electronic device and authenticating the decoded second right code; and

storing the right information included in the authenticated second right code in said second portable electronic device.

Claim 8 (currently amended): An information distribution system comprising:
a portable electronic device for a user; and
an information management apparatus for storing both information on a predetermined right and information corresponding to said portable electronic device, the second information indicating to whom a right belongs,

wherein said information distribution system manages the location of said right by updating the right information stored by said information management apparatus and the information indicating to whom said right belongs;

said information management apparatus comprising:

information holding means for holding the right information;

access means for recording the transfer of said right to said user by accessing said information holding means and for updating the right information held by said information holding means;

encryption means for generating encrypted information by using a code unique to said portable electronic device to encrypt the information indicating to whom said right belongs to be in an offline providable form; and

information providing means for providing said user with the encrypted information so that the encrypted information passes through an offline channel at least once; and said portable electronic device comprises:

input means for accepting the input of the encrypted information; into said portable electronic device independently of a connection status of said portable electronic device, the generated encrypted information represented in at least one of an audible and visible form to input the encrypted information into said portable electronic device by a user;

decryption means for decrypting the encrypted information using said unique code and outputting the information indicating to whom said right belongs;

recording means for recording the output information indicating to whom said right belongs; and information output means for using a predetermined access means to output the recorded information indicating to whom said right belongs.

Claim 9 (original): An information distribution system according to Claim 8, wherein said information indicating to whom said right belongs is information for permitting admission to a predetermined place.

Claim 10 (original): An information distribution system according to Claim 8, wherein said information management apparatus executes billing in response to the provision of the encrypted information by said information providing means.

Claim 11 (original): An information distribution system according to Claim 8, wherein said portable electronic device comprises:

information generating means for generating information for requesting the transfer of said right based on the information recorded in said recording means;

encryption means for generating encrypted transfer information by using a code unique to encrypt the information for requesting the transfer of said right so that the encrypted transfer information is provided offline;

control means for controlling the accessing of the information recorded in said recording means in response to the encryption by said encryption means; and

output means for outputting the encrypted transfer information so that the encrypted transfer information passes through an offline channel at least once; and

said information management apparatus further comprises a decryption means for decrypting the encrypted transfer information, and updates right information which corresponds to the output of said decryption means by using said access means to access said information holding means in response to the output of said decryption means.

Claim 12 (original): An information distribution system according to Claim 11, wherein said information management apparatus executes billing in response to the provision of the encrypted information by the information providing means, and changes the billing in response to the encrypted transfer information.

Claim 13 (original): An information distribution system according to Claim 11, wherein said portable electronic device comprises:

encryption means for generating second encrypted information based on the information recorded in said recording means by using a code unique to another portable electronic device so that the second encrypted information is provided off line;

control means for controlling the accessing of the information recorded in said recording means in response to the encryption by said encryption means; and

output means for outputting the second encrypted information so that the second encrypted information is provided to the other portable electronic device after passing through an offline channel at least once; and

the other portable electronic device performs the processing of the second encrypted information, which is identical to the processing of the encrypted information by said portable electronic device.

Claim 14 (currently amended): An information management method for, by updating right information held by an information management apparatus and by recording in a portable electronic device information indicating to whom said right belongs, managing said right so as to be exercised when said portable electronic device is with a user, wherein said information management method controls said information management apparatus to perform the steps of:

generating encrypted information to be in an offline providable form by using a code unique to said portable electronic device to encrypt the information indicating to whom said right belongs; and

providing said user with the encrypted information so that the encrypted information passes through an offline channel at least once; and

inputting said encrypted information into said portable electronic device independently of a connection status of said portable electronic device, the generated encrypted information represented in at least one of an audible and visible form to input the encrypted information into said portable electronic device by a user.

Claim 15 (original): An information management method according to Claim 14, wherein the billing is performed in response to the provision of the encrypted information.

Claim 16 (original): An information management method according to Claim 14, wherein said information management method controls said portable electronic device to perform the steps of:

generating encrypted transfer information by using a unique code to encrypt information for requesting the transfer of said right so that the encrypted transfer information is provided offline; and

preventing the information indicating to whom said right belongs from being output, and transmitting the encrypted transfer information to said information management apparatus so that the encrypted transfer information passes through the offline channel at least once.

Claim 17 (original): An information management method according to Claim 16, wherein said information management method controls said image management apparatus to perform the steps of:

executing a billing process in response to the provision of the encrypted information; and changing said billing process in response to the encrypted transfer information.

Claim 18 (original): An information management method according, to Claim 14, wherein said information management method controls said portable electronic device to perform the steps of:

generating second encrypted information based on the information indicating to whom said right belongs by using a code unique to another portable electronic device so that the second encrypted information is provided offline; and

providing the second encrypted information to the other portable electronic device so that the second encrypted information passes through the offline channel at least once; and

outputting the second encrypted information and preventing the information indicating to whom said right belongs from being output.

Claim 19 (previously presented): An information management method according to Claim 18, wherein said portable electronic device is an integrated circuit card.

Claim 20 (original): An information management method according to Claim 18, wherein the information indicating to whom said right belongs is information for allowing said user to enter an event place.